

# Storytelling Straw Splats

## Description:

Children will create a straw painting and tell a story about it.

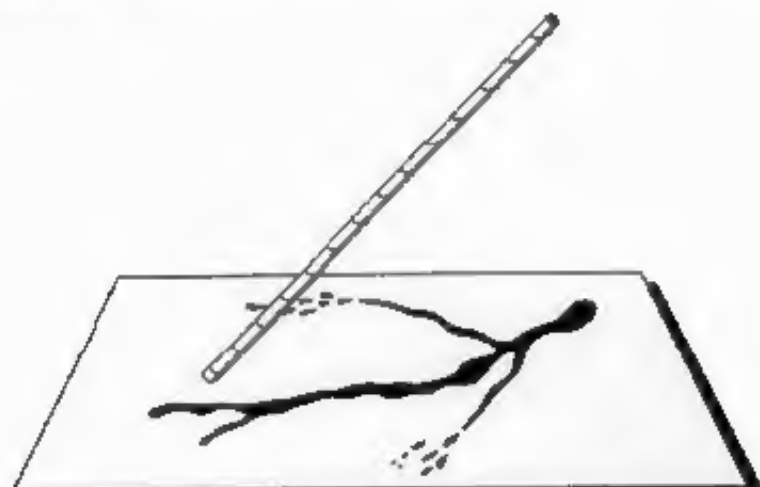
## Materials:

watered-down tempera or watercolor paint, paintbrushes, water and containers, straws, white paper

**Standards:** 6

**Concepts:** Symbol, line, and color

**Level:** K-3



## Procedure:

Take a glob of paint on a paintbrush and place it on a piece of paper. Then take a straw and blow through it to create spiderweb-like patterns. Now let your child have a try. Encourage him to use a variety of colors as he fills his paper with spidery patterns. When the picture is complete, have your child talk about the hidden pictures he sees in the painting. Then get him involved in a storytelling session about the picture. Here is an example to get you started:

Miss Murphy was a very tidy spider. She spent a lot of time weaving her webs so they were just right. One day it was very hot and she had trouble making her webs. All of a sudden, they were jagged and went all over the place. Her neighbors laughed at her webs."

When the weather finally cooled off, Miss Murphy got back to normal and began creating beautiful webs again. All was not lost, though. They made a museum for all her crazy webs. You can see a picture of one here.

## Tips:

Be sure to put newspapers down to catch spills and drips.

## Artist Tie-in:

Jackson Pollock (1912–1956) is an American Abstract Expressionist. Study Pollock's paintings and discuss his technique of dripping and splattering paint on his canvases. For a look at his work, visit [www.nga.gov/feature/pollock/painting1.html](http://www.nga.gov/feature/pollock/painting1.html).

## Just for Kids:

You can make neat lines with paint. Blow through your straw on a glob of paint and watch the paint spread. Follow the spreading paint with your straw and stretch it out a little. Now turn your paper around and spread it the other way. Then change colors and try again. Remember to clean your brush every time you change colors. How many different lines can you make? Fill up most of the space on your paper. Now, tell a story about your picture. What do you see? How does it make you feel? Are your lines exciting? Boring? Happy? Sad?

